

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

Kenneth H. Grabstein, Dean K. Pettit, and
Raymond J. Paxton

Docket No.: 2831-E

Group Art Unit: 1645

Serial No: 09/578,669

Examiner: A. Navarro

Filed: May 25, 2000

For: ANTAGONISTS OF INTERLEUKIN-15

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Date: May 1, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

ELECTION AND AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS

This responds to the Restriction Requirement mailed 01 February 2002.

Applicants submit herewith a petition for a two month extension of time, extending the period of response to 01 May 2002.

Election of Claims

The Examiner required restriction to one of thirty groups of claims, and further required restriction to "a single sequence including recited substitutions." Office Action at page 7. In response, Applicants elect the claims of Group I, "antagonists comprising IL-15 conjugated with a chemical group," and SEQ ID NO:2. These elections are made WITH TRAVERSE.

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02 FC:103 144.00 CH

Applicants traverse the requirement for restriction between Groups I and II, and the requirement to elect a single sequence, on the grounds that: (1) the claims of Groups I and II are related as conjugated forms of IL-15 and IL-15 muteins, (2) the Examiner has failed to acknowledge the presence of linking claim 26, (3) it would not be an serious burden on the Examiner to search and examine the claims of Groups I and II together, especially in view of the fact that both groups relate to IL-15 and are similarly classified,